

Minutes of Meeting

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

Travelodge, Burlington, Ontario
September 17, 2002
Prepared: November 1, 2002

Attendance

United States

Canada

Board Members

Colonel Mark Roncoli
(Alternate Member)

Doug Cuthbert, Member

Secretaries

John Kangas

Peter Yee

Regulation Representatives

LTC Thomas Magness
Dave Schweiger (Alternate)

David Fay

Associates

Lisa Bourget
Carl Woodruff
Don Sawruk

Tom McAuley
Andy McPhee

Agenda - The Board approved the agenda (enclosed).

1 Minutes of the March 18, 2002 meeting – The Board approved the minutes, and Mr. Kangas will forward them to the IJC.

2. Long Lac and Ogoki Diversions

Mr. Fay provided the Board the diversion data supplied by Ontario Power Generation. For the March through August 2002 period, the two diversions averaged about 134 percent of average for the period 1944-2001.

3. Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

The upper lakes basins had above-average precipitation this past spring. July rainfall amount was slightly below average while August was near average. The overall net basin supplies for the upper lakes for the past six months were not far from average. Currently, Lake Superior's level is 14 cm (5.5 inches) below average (1918-2001), 5 cm (2 inches) higher than last year, and 22 cm (8.7 inches) above chart datum. Lakes Michigan-Huron are 31 cm (12 inches) below average, 24 cm (9.4 inches) higher than last year and 23 cm (9.1 inches) above chart datum. The Regulation Representatives presented the Board a range of projected levels and flows for the next several months as specified by Regulation Plan 1977-A. If very dry conditions extend into the autumn, ponding operations might be restricted starting as early as November.

The Board concluded the regulation plan continues to work well and agreed that outflows specified by the regulation plan be continued, except for the small on-going deviation already authorized by the IJC to accommodate the gate seal repairs.

4. Peaking and Ponding Operations

The Regulation Representatives updated the Board on peaking and ponding operations. The Board noted that we have had only several months of operating experience this year but the present guidelines governing peaking and ponding operations and the mechanism of disseminating information to the public appear to be working very well. There has been no report of ship delay since the guidelines were put into effect. Nonetheless, staff will examine ship transit and mooring records in the St. Marys River to determine whether there have been any impacts on navigation related to water levels, and whether any such delays may be related to peaking and ponding.

The IJC has requested that the Board provide a report by mid-December on operating experience this year. A part of the report will review consultation with the navigation and sea lamprey control agencies for their comments, and the status of our hydraulic study using computer model. The Board asked that a draft be available by December 1 for review.

5. Compensating Works – Maintenance and Repairs

The Board noted the repair to the gate seals started on August 20, and is expected to extend to mid-October. The Secretaries will request IJC authority to deviate from the regulation plan for the month of October since the current authority is for the period August – September.

6. U.S. Government Plant – Status on Equipment Automation

The installation of hardware and software continues and it is expected to be completed by the end of October this year. A consulting firm has been hired by the power entities to rate the turbines at the U.S. Government plant. Flow measurements are expected to take place in the summer of

2003 to verify the ratings at the U.S. Government plant as well as the Edison Sault plant. Flow measurements to verify the ratings at the Great Lakes Power Limited plant is scheduled for 2005.

7. Flow Measurements

The Board agreed to conduct flow measurements in July or August 2003 to update the rating for the Compensating Works. This could take place about the same time as those for the power plants. A final decision will be made in March 2003 depending on budget and expected water level conditions.

8. Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Sea Lamprey Control Activities

The invited representatives from the Fishery Commission were not able to attend the meeting. The Board will again invite the Fishery Commission to its next meeting, scheduled for early March in Chicago to explore where the Board could be of assistance.

9. IJC policy concerning public access to minutes of meetings

The Board Secretaries informed the Board that they anticipate no problems in meeting the IJC's target date for placing the minutes of meeting on the web site.

10. Communications with the Public

The Board decided to hold the next annual public meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, sometime in late June 2003.

11. Semi-Annual Progress Report

The Board approved the semi-annual report, which will be forwarded to the IJC later in the week.

12. Other Business

The Board discussed the subject of security of the water control facilities in the St. Marys River. The Secretaries will prepare a short presentation for the IJC appearance.

The Board staff informed that dredging being carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Vidal Shoal area, upstream of Sault Ste. Marie, continues and the work is expected to be completed by about mid-October this year.

The Board staff informed that discussion is ongoing between the two governments regarding the proposed dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the St. Marys River downstream of Sault Ste. Marie, from the Soo locks to Rock Cut. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a model study to better understand the impacts of the dredging on water levels, and

flows around Sugar Island.

The Board noted that governments have not yet allocated any funding to initiate the upper Great Lakes study.

The Board staff informed that study is underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to replace two of the existing locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with a modern and larger lock. U.S. funding will determine the progress of the engineering design next year.

On the subject of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Navigation Review, Board staff informed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have submitted their reconnaissance report to their Headquarters. The agency is searching for partners including Canadian transportation, navigation and other agencies prior to initiating a more detailed feasibility study.

13. Next Meeting and IJC Appearance

The Board will hold its next meeting in Chicago, on either March 4, 5 or 6. The meeting with the IJC is scheduled for the morning of October 8, in the IJC's Ottawa office.

MEETING AGENDA
INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

September 17, 2002

Travel Lodge, Burlington, Ontario

1. Review draft minutes of March 18, 2002 meeting in Detroit.
2. Update on Long Lac and Ogoki diversions
3. Update on current conditions and regulation strategy
4. Peaking and Ponding Operations
 - a. Report by Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
 - b. Board report to IJC on 2002 operating experience
5. Compensating Works - Status of repairs to gate seals
6. U.S. Government Plant - status on equipment automation
7. Flow measurements
8. Great Lakes Fishery Commission proposal for sea lamprey trapping experiment
9. IJC policy concerning public access to minutes of meetings
10. Communications with the public
 - a. June 25, 2002 public meeting in Paradise, Michigan and plan for 2003
 - b. water level/flow information for public
 - c. 2003 proposed public meeting
11. Review semi-annual progress report
12. Other business
 - a. security concerns
 - b. status of dredging at Vidal Shoals and lower St. Marys River
 - c. status of Upper Great Lakes Plan of Study
 - d. Information on U.S. lock replacement
 - e. current U.S. review of Great Lakes – St. Lawrence navigation system
13. Next meeting and IJC appearance